

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-38 and 39-47.

Please amend claim 39 as follows:

39. In a method for broadcasting data to a television set using a carrier signal such as a television or commercial radio carrier signal, the improvement comprising:

constructing a data stream from individual first record of a transmission database, each first record comprising one of a selection of formats, at least one of the first records comprising executable program code or an object;

broadcasting the data stream within the carrier signal;

providing a user with a user's device for receiving and decoding the data stream, the user's device receiving and decoding the data stream to a user's database, the user's database having second records comprising at least some of the first records, the second records comprising one of a selection of formats and at least one record comprising executable program code or an object broadcast from the first records;

determining the format a second record using a control program;

running, when required, the executable program code; and

generating a display on the television consistent with the format determined by the control program.

[A distributed database system comprising:

a central station for accumulating and distributing data on a database, said central station comprising:

a data store for storing accumulated data from said database, ready for distribution;

processing means for extracting said data from said data store and generating a sequential data stream therewith for distribution;

and transmission means for encoding and transmitting said sequential data stream;

and a plurality of receiver stations for receiving said data and

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selectively making available at least portions of said data in accordance with the demands of a user of a said receiver station, each of said receiver stations comprises:

decoder means to receive and decode transmitted data so as to reconstitute said database data therefrom;

input means for the user of said receiver station to input user commands in respect of the demands of the user to said receiver station;

receiver processing means for constituting a database from said data having regard to said user commands;

memory means for storing data for constituting said database; and

means for communicating selected data in direct response to said user commands;

wherein said decoder means includes:

data acquisition means for extracting a serial data stream and a synchronization signal from the transmitted data;

a data decoder to filter out data control information from said serial data stream and reconstitute said database data; and

transfer means to continuously transfer a stream of reconstituted data to said receiver processing means, and

wherein said receiver processing means includes:

further decoder means to examine said stream of reconstituted data and extract index data therefrom;

and database handling means to determine storage of individual database data in accordance with a prescribed algorithm,

whereby in response to a decision to store or update said individual database data, said database handling means is adapted to transfer said individual database data to a requisite storage location in said memory means and perform contingency action according to said prescribed algorithm involving changing the structure of said database so as to continuously constitute said database.]

Please add new claims 48-81, below.

8 48. The method of claim 39<sup>1</sup>, wherein at least one first record comprises stream data and the display on the television comprises an audio presentation.

9 49. The method of claim 39<sup>1</sup>, wherein at least one first record comprises index data and the display on the television comprises menus based on the index data.

4 50. The method of claim 39<sup>1</sup>, further comprising the steps of supplying the user's database with requested records, the requested records being the result of a return link established between a microprocessor which operates with the user's database and the transmission database, the return link established at least in part via a telephonic network.

5 51. The method of claim 50<sup>4</sup>, wherein a second data stream is received over the return link.

6 52. The method of claim 39<sup>1</sup>, wherein the data stream comprises one or more data objects represented by information encoded in a first object and packet based protocol.

7 53. The method of claim 52<sup>4</sup>, wherein the information is broadcast in a second packet based protocol.

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54. In a method for broadcasting data to a television set using a carrier signal such as a television or commercial radio carrier signal, the improvement comprising:

constructing a data stream from the records of a transmission database;  
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the database having individual first records, each first record comprising one of a selection of formats, at least one of the first records comprising executable program code or an object; broadcasting the data stream within the carrier signal.

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55. The method of claim 54, wherein at least one first record comprises stream data and the display on the television <sup>comprises</sup> an audio presentation.

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56. The method of claim 54, wherein at least one first record comprises index data and the display on the television comprises menus based on the index data.

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57. The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of supplying a user's database with requested records, the requested records being the result of a return link established between a microprocessor which operates  
5 with the user's database and the transmission database, the return link established at least in part via a telephonic network.

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58. The method of claim 57, wherein a second data stream is received over the return link.

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59. The method of claim 54, wherein the data stream comprises one or more data objects represented by information encoded in a first object and packet based protocol.

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60. The method of claim 59, wherein: the information is broadcast in a second packet based protocol.

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61. In a method for receiving data for a television display using a carrier signal such as a television or commercial radio carrier signal, the improvement comprising:

5 receiving a carrier signal and from it decoding a data stream to a user's database, the user's database comprising individual records comprising records recovered from the data stream, the individual records comprising one of a selection of formats and at least one record comprising executable program code or an object broadcast from the first records;

10 determining the format an individual record using a control program; running, when required, the executable program code; and generating a display on the television consistent with the format determined by the control program.

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62. The method of claim 61, wherein the data stream further comprises stream data and the display on the television comprises an audio presentation.

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63. The method of claim 61, wherein at least one first record comprises index data and the display on the television comprises menus based on the index data.

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64. The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of supplying the user's database with requested records, the requested records being the result of a return link established between a microprocessor which operates with the user's database and a transmission database, the return link  
5 established at least in part via a telephonic network.

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65. The method of claim 64, wherein a second data stream is received over the return link.

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66. The method of claim 61, wherein the data stream comprises one or more data objects represented by information encoded in a first object and packet based protocol.

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67. The method of claim 66, wherein the information is broadcast in a second packet based protocol.

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68. In a communications device such as a personal computer or television or set top box adapted to receive a data stream broadcast over a carrier signal, such as a television or radio carrier signal, the improvement comprising:

5 a receiver for receiving broadcast database records;

a decoder and processor for extracting individual data records from the data stream to a user's database, the user's database comprising individual user records comprising at least some records recovered from the broadcast database records;

10 the user records recovered from the broadcast database records comprising one of a selection of formats and at least one record comprising executable program code or an object broadcast from the first records;

a control program for determining the format a user record;

a processor for running, when required, the executable program code;

15 and

a display generator for creating a display consistent with the format determined by the control program.

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69. The device of claim 68, wherein the data stream further comprises stream data and the display comprises an audio presentation.

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70. The device of claim 68, wherein at least one user record comprises index data broadcast in the broadcast database data and the display comprises menus based on the index data.

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71. The device of claim 68, further comprising a return link for sending commands to supply the user's database with requested records, the return link established between a microprocessor which operates with the user's database and a transmission database, the return link established at least in part via a telephonic network.

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72. The device of claim 71, wherein a second data stream is received over the return link.

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73. The device of claim 68, wherein the data stream comprises one or more data objects represented by information encoded in a first object and packet based protocol.

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74. The device of claim 73, wherein the information is broadcast in the data stream in a second packet based protocol.

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75. In a device for broadcasting a carrier signal such as a television or commercial radio carrier signal to a user, the improvement comprising:

- 5       a computer having a transmission database;
- the database having individual first records, each first record comprising one of a selection of formats, at least one of the first records comprising executable program code or an object;
- an encoder for creating a packet based data stream constructed at least
- 10       in part from the first records;
- an inserter for inserting the data stream into another signal and a transmitter for broadcasting the data stream.

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**W E A T H E R**

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